HB 53991

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Dear Mr. Haddad,

I would like to propose a new bill for Connecticut that state to raise the minimum wage from \$8.25 to \$9.50. This would help people that have to pay for their education by themselves to be able to go to a good school and then possibly a graduate school such as law school or medical school. Secondly, increasing minimum wage would encourage people to spend more money which in turn would help the economy. Last, raising the minimum wage would encourage people to find a job and stop collecting welfare. I know that some people have been getting along fine working with the current minimum wage, but many people don't have enough to provide for their families or even themselves.

Most importantly, raising the minimum wage would help people pay for school. Some people have their parents pay for their tuition which really takes some stress off of the student, but others have to put themselves through college which is a very heavy burden. Often times the people that have to work and go to school at the same time have minimum wage jobs trying to pay off their student loans. If an average 4 year education at a university costs about 100,000 dollars, with an \$8.25 an hour job it would take about 12,121.2 hours to earn that. This doesn't include the cost of other necessities that a student would need such as food, water, and rent for apartments if they have them. If a student has classes Monday through Friday and

they can only work 4 hours a day it would take about 606 days to pay off. Again, this does not include the price of other items, so it would take even longer. Even after graduation, on average students have a \$25,250 debt to pay off. Hopefully by that time one would find a higher paying job with help from a degree and would be able to pay off more each month.

Equally as important, having a higher income each week would give people more money to spend without having to worry about costs of heating, lighting, etc. When a person has more money, they can spend more money in stores which would help the economy because people are getting more money to spend which gives a company more money, and then they can pay their workers more and it keeps repeating and everybody will have money (in theory.) Also, if the economy starts to get better, than the unemployment rate will drop because companies would need more workers to fulfill the needs of the customers. With an increase of the minimum wage, bills would be slightly less stressful and would have less of an impact in what a family could or could not buy. I feel that many people would benefit from this increase in minimum wage and many people could provide better care for themselves and their family. With a little extra spending money, a person could buy luxury items which would lead to a happier life and in turn would lessen the chance of that person committing a crime. As you can see, raising the minimum wage would be good because it would give people more money each week.

The next important aspect is that raising the minimum wage would encourage people to stop collecting welfare and find a job. Many people in the U.S. are unemployed and collect welfare from the government. The reason many people do not try to find a job is that they feel

the there is no point because there just is not enough money being paid at minimum wage jobs. This is really bad because people aren't working and can't support themselves, and those people aren't motivated to do anything. I bet if I were to ask ten unemployed people why they do not try to get a job, at least six would say because the jobs that they could get with the education they had, doesn't pay enough. Many people who don't collect welfare are upset because their tax money is going to people who don't try to get jobs; they just rely on the welfare. If there was to be an increase in minimum wage, it would encourage people to stop collecting welfare.

In conclusion, raising the minimum wage in Connecticut would have a very positive impact on Connecticut for three main reasons. First, raising minimum wage would help people that have to pay for their education by themselves to be able to go to a good school and then possibly a graduate school such as law school or medical school. Secondly, increasing minimum wage would encourage people to spend more money which in turn would help the economy. Last, raising the minimum wage would encourage people to find a job and stop collecting welfare. I would be extremely happy if this was passed and I'm sure thousands of others would be too.